

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
Room HB-26 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Lowey,

We are asking that you include \$450 million for Peace Corps in the Subcommittee mark of the Fiscal Year 2010 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, H.R. 2410, which includes a new Peace Corps authorization of \$450 million. This is the same level included in the Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2009 (H.R. 1066), which has 128 co-sponsors.

This investment in Peace Corps will support an expansion of Americans serving our country as volunteers, enable new country programs to be established, and continue the collaboration and integration of volunteers in the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance priority program areas, including basic education, agriculture and nutrition, and global health, including HIV/AIDS. For example, the current involvement of Peace Corps volunteers in PEPFAR is providing that program with much-needed support and enhancing the effectiveness of PEPFAR activities on the ground. An expanded and strengthened Peace Corps is an immediate opportunity to realize America's commitment to global leadership and citizen service.

Chairwoman Lowey, we appreciate your difficult task of balancing many, competing global priorities with limited resources. We also see an opportunity, in this moment, to reinvigorate Peace Corps for the new century and realize President Obama's vision of young Americans working side by side with the people of other nations "to take on the common challenges that confront all humanity." A \$450 million investment in Peace Corps is both strategic and timely.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to provide thousands of Americans the opportunity to serve our country.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



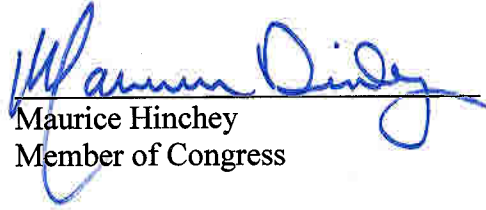
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Michael Honda
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Maurice Hinchey
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Carolyn Kilpatrick
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